

Nutrition and Food Services



A Career in Nutrition and Food Services

Nutrition and Food Services personnel, including food service workers, cooks, supervisors, dietitians, clinical dietetic technicians and health technicians, provide comprehensive and innovative nutrition and food service programs for Veterans and their families. Nutrition and

Food Services personnel prepare and serve quality meals, provide nutritional care, and ensure effective nutrition education and counseling throughout the VA health care delivery system. These staff encourage health, wellness and disease management by promoting healthy food choices.

Cooking

This series covers nonsupervisory work involved in the preparation of regular or special diet foods and meals. This includes cooking meats, poultry, fish, shellfish and vegetables, and making soups, gravies, sauces, desserts and other foods. Cooks use standardized recipes and menus and personal knowledge and experience to measure, assemble and mix ingredients; regulate cooking temperatures; and add seasoning to foods. They use specialized knowledge and skills to design and prepare decorated foods and attractive food arrangements. This includes molding food items into different forms, carving fruits and vegetables into shapes and creating ice sculptures. Positions include:

- Cook

Food Service Working

This series covers nonsupervisory work involved in serving food and beverages and preparing simple foods. It includes setting and waiting on tables; attending food counters; portioning and serving food; assembling trays for hospital patients; recording and retrieving patient diet and other food service information using a computer or manual file system; washing dishes, pots, pans, glasses and silverware; transporting food, equipment and supplies by manual or motorized carts; and assisting in food preparation by peeling potatoes, cutting vegetables, assembling and tossing salads, measuring and weighing ingredients, brewing coffee and tea and mixing bulk fruit juices. In addition, the work includes sweeping, washing, mopping and buffing floors, and washing walls and ceilings. Positions include:

- Food Services Worker

MyCareer@VA

VA is committed to career development and supports employees' ambitions to grow, learn and advance. Building a career at VA is a partnership, and we are dedicated to providing you the career resources and materials you need to achieve success.

The MyCareer@VA program delivers interactive and engaging career development tools to help you explore and chart your long-term career path within VA.



Health Aid and Technician

This series covers nonprofessional technical, specialized or support positions in health or medicine when the work is generalized, specialized or miscellaneous and there is no other more appropriate series. This work is either: (1) characteristic of two or more specialized nonprofessional series in the Medical, Dental and Public Health Group, 0600, when no one type of work controls the qualification requirements; or (2) sufficiently new, unique or miscellaneous that it is not included in a specialized nonprofessional series in the group. Positions include:

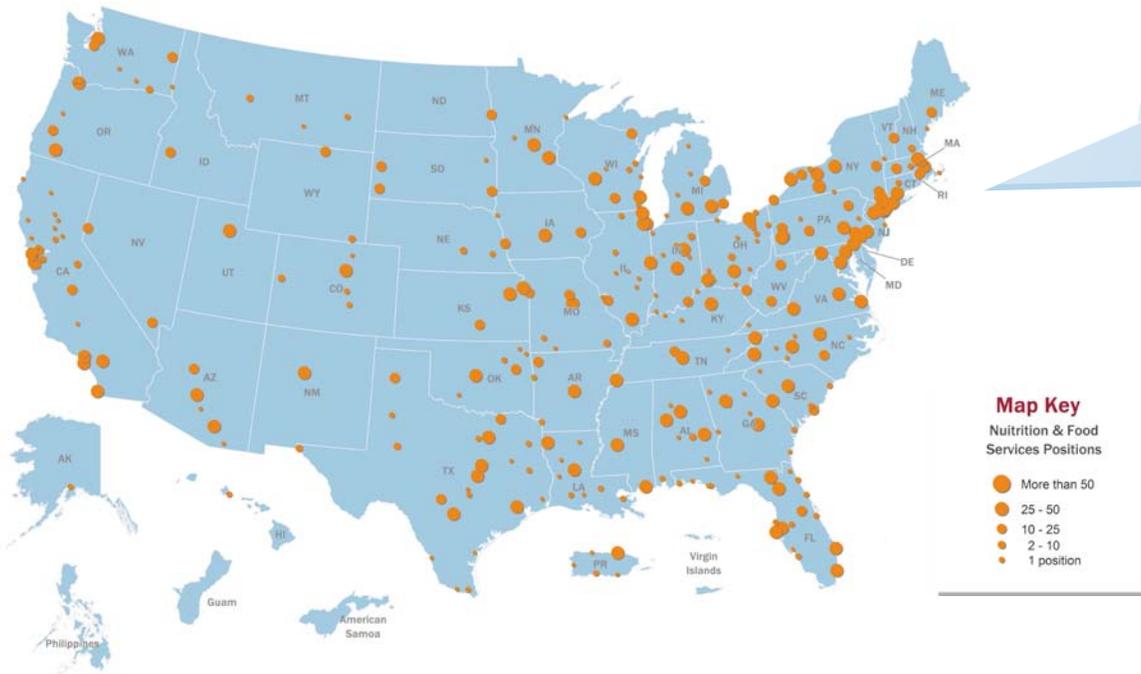
- Dietetic Technician (Clinical)
- Health Technician (Dietetics)

Dietitian and Nutritionist

The Dietitian and Nutritionist series develops and distributes therapeutic nutrition to Veterans, families and caregivers. Employees in the series are an important part of the VA team that is responsible for delivering exceptional care and services to beneficiaries across the nation. Patient care services are provided in hospitals or other treatment facilities and involve engaging in food service management, assessing the nutritional needs of individuals or a community group and developing therapeutic diet plans. They are also responsible for teaching the effects of nutrition on health, conducting research regarding the use of diet in the treatment of disease, and consulting on or administering a dietetic program. Positions include:

- Dietitian

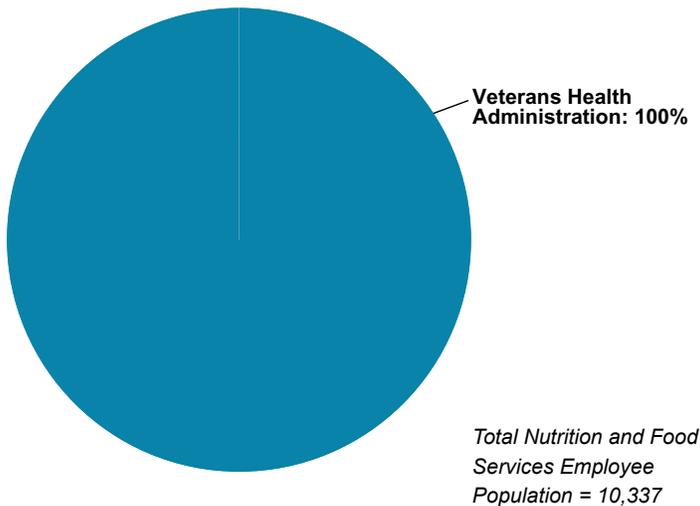




Nutrition and Food Services Job Locations

VA's Nutrition and Food Services positions are dispersed across 314 cities within the United States. The top five Nutrition and Food Services occupational family geographic locations are Los Angeles, Calif.; Hines, Ill.; Cleveland, Ohio; Milwaukee, Wis.; and San Juan, Puerto Rico.

VA Nutrition and Food Services Job Distribution by Administration



VA's Nutrition and Food Services positions are located in the Veterans Health Administration to meet the broad range of needs facing the Department.

MyCareer@VA Tools and Resources

- Career Planning Process** - Develop professional goals and align developmental experiences to VA career opportunities through a four-phase process: Prepare, Plan, Explore and Develop
- My Career Mapping Tool** - Map your long-term career path at VA by exploring career possibilities that leverage your knowledge, skills and experience across multiple occupational families
- My Career Fit Tool** - Discover your career "fit" at VA by identifying your work interests and work environment preferences
- VA Career Guides** - Explore the knowledge, skills, education and training recommended for each VA job and related career levels

VA employees can also visit the VA Talent Management System (TMS), a state-of-the-art online training and employee development system, to search and register for training courses and learning opportunities.